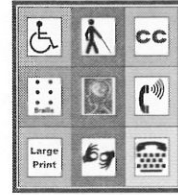




Office on the Disabled
City of Saint Louis
Advisory Council Meeting
Room 305, City Hall
June 24, 2013



Minutes

Gina Hilberry called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M. Members present included Gina Hilberry, Jane Thomas, Linda Baker, Mike Keller, and Bill Sheldon. David Newburger and Kim Kreitner were also present. Absent were Kerri Morgan, Wendy Sullivan and Willie Kimbrough, Jr.

Minutes from the May 29th meeting were adopted.

The next meeting for the advisory council is scheduled on July 29th at 9:00 A.M. at Paraquad (5240 Oakland Ave, St. Louis, MO 63110).

City Building Accessibility Study :

Ms. Hilberry met with the Washington University Occupational Therapy students to instruct them on best practices while evaluating city buildings using the ADA checklist. She went over the assessments and spoke on how to prioritize time. Ms. Hilberry reported that the students had great questions and seemed very enthusiastic about starting the evaluation of the buildings.

Police Transition Plan:

The police department is implementing their plan as of September 1st, and there are some big pieces that are happening with their plan. While there is little movement at this time, Mr. Newburger will keep bringing it to the forefront for them.

All Ready Campaign:

The All Ready Campaign just went through a budgeting process and they got a budget set aside for a considerable amount of money that will hold through 2015. This means the public relations campaign will continue but it's not sure who will be doing this as it has to go out for RFP. It's broken down into a series of contracts: communications, outreach, evaluation and device purchasing contracts. It's been proposed to the local Homeland Security people that All Ready can set up a Train the Trainer in which they would acquire devices and depending on the number of devices, trainees could give them out in classes.

These would need to meet the needs of people with disabilities. This could possibly be a NOAA radio for weather alerts. This is a good choice for many but it would not benefit the deaf population. What are some alternatives for the deaf population? A bed shaker or flashing lights may suffice. Also, people with mental illness and people with intellectual disabilities need to be taken into consideration. None of these devices are on the list of things Homeland Security can purchase so we are asking them to expand their list. Ms. Baker mentioned that there is an app for smart phones called ENGAGE. It warns people of emergency situations happening through their smart phones. The downside is that people without smart phones could not benefit.

Mr. Sheldon is going to find out if video phones are capable of sending out emergency alerts.

Ms. Thomas would like to include Shirley Corbett from Deaf Inc. in this conversation. Mr. Newburger thinks this is a great idea since Deaf Inc. has very useful videos on their website pertaining to emergency preparedness.

Mr. Newburger states that there are several contracts including an outreach contract through the All Ready Campaign. An agency or individual will be hired to do outreach for the All Ready Campaign. This will be done through RFP. The bottom line goal for all of this is to have people create emergency plans to keep themselves safe.

We've surveyed all the Emergency Operation plans in the region and looked at what the emergency management agencies had written in their plans and whether they were responsive to people with disabilities and by and large they have failed in that regard. St. Louis County and Monroe County were the only two that largely succeeded. We now have a report written about what those failures are and we're now working out how to use that. One idea is to just give it to the media and let the chips fall where they may. Another idea is to invite everyone to attend a summit and focus on how they can energize their plans. This is likely the route we'll take. Even if they get everything in their plan the next stage will be implementation and this will take quite awhile.

County ADA Coordinator Discussion:

Mr. Newburger has a call in to Pat Dillon, St. Louis County ADA Coordinator. This discussion came up in the last meeting on ways that the city and county can work together. Mr. Newburger is leery of some construction projects in the county that are problematic. Can we do things in both the city and county that would enhance what's going on in both areas? Mr. Sheldon recommends regular meetings with the county.

Mr. Newburger states that the city and the county are both working toward saving money on projects by blending them. Ms. Baker agrees and adds that city and county are already starting to work together administratively.

Mr. Newburger's vision is that we create a public project to improve accessibility working in tandem with the county. This could possibly be a joint training program that is more than just a meeting. Mr. Newburger feels that our mayor and their county executive would be very pleased to see a collaborative project.

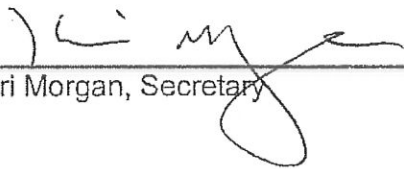
Opportunities for Council Members:

Mr. Newburger would like the council members to think about ways they would like to volunteer to enhance the advisory council. One example is an awareness raising training that can happen in city government. Training people who will be interacting with people with disabilities while using city services. *Mr. Newburger would like all advisory council members to come to the next meeting with ideas on how to make the city more accessible.* Ms. Baker recommends a quarterly brown bag luncheon training for city employees to attend to learn things from council members. Think about incentives to get people to attend.

New Business

No new business at this time.

Meeting adjourned at 10:10 A.M.
Respectfully submitted,



Kerri Morgan, Secretary